Republican River Basin-Wide Plan Coordination Meeting Notes

Monday, December 12, 2016 **10:00 AM – 12:00 PM** Tri-Basin Natural Resources District – 1723 Burlington Street, Holdrege, NE

Attendance

Emily Bausch (Olsson)
Scott Dicke (LRNRD)
Nate Jenkins (URNRD)
John Thorburn (TBNRD)

Carol Flaute (NeDNR)
Jennifer Schellpeper (NeDNR)
Jack Russell (MRNRD)
Sylvia Johnson (MRNRD)

Tatiana Height (NeDNR) Karen Griffin (Olsson) Patti Banks (Vireo)

The meeting opened with a synopsis of the November 29th 3-states meeting. Kansas is considering adding another irrigation district but there are multiple considerations to be weighed in order to decide if that would be a worthwhile endeavor. In addition, Colorado will be pumping 10,000 acre feet (af) from their pipeline and a 68,000 af trigger has been added to the resolution for Compact Call Years.

The group then reviewed the process for formally extending the basin-wide plan deadline beyond April 2017, as allowed by statute. NeDNR shared sample extension letters with the NRDs. The group will revisit the question of how long to extend the process following the January 2017 stakeholder meeting.

The next topic of discussion was action items for the group following the November stakeholder meeting,, including stakeholder data requests. The group reviewed draft new and revised handouts; some of which are for use at the January stakeholder meeting and some of which will be sent to stakeholders via mail or email. One particular revision from a handout from the November 2017 meeting is that the groundwater pumping data was corrected to include commingled acres. NRD managers will check the updated numbers for accuracy. The group also discussed which time periods of data would be most useful and meaningful to include on the various data handouts.

The group also reviewed the January stakeholder meeting agenda as well as feedback received from stakeholders on the draft plan language distributed at the November stakeholder meeting. The draft plan language and compiled feedback from stakeholders will be shared with stakeholders and discussed at the January stakeholder meeting.

The next Republican River Basin-Wide Plan coordination meeting will be held Tuesday February 21, 2017.